



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
ENGINEERING FIELD ACTIVITY, WEST
NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
900 COMMODORE DRIVE
SAN BRUNO, CALIFORNIA 94066-5006

3130
IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090
Ser 6321/9028
December 2, 1998

Mr. Chip Gribble
Dept. of Toxic Substance Control
California Environmental Protection Agency
700 Heinz Avenue, Bldg. F, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710-2721

Dear Mr. Gribble:

Subj: MARE ISLAND BASEWIDE PCB CONFIRMATION SAMPLING SUMMARY
REPORT (DATED 2/13/98) AND PARTICULARLY THE FINAL CONFIRMATION
SAMPLING PARCEL SUMMARY FOR ROOSEVELT TERRACE (FORWARDED FOR
YOUR REVIEW NOV 13, 1998) - ADDITIONAL DTSC COMMENT

In response to your telephone conversation comment of November 30, 1998 - i.e. Please explain/justify the high detection limits as indicated in the SSPTS interim assessment report (interim report discussed in the Final Confirmation Sampling Parcel Summary for Roosevelt Terrace) - the Navy provides the following explanation:

a. SSPTS personnel collected 36 PCB samples within Parcel 16-A (report will be included in Appendix A of the Basewide PCB Summary Report). Several laboratory analytical reports (included in the interim report) indicated elevated Report Limits with the analysis comment "Raised RL due to matrix interference". The laboratory results summary in the interim report acknowledged the elevated Report Levels, noted that PCBs were not detected in any of the 36 screening samples, and recommended that confirmatory sampling be conducted at the screening locations (SSPTS relatively low-cost approach for PCB screening analysis and general PCB analyses matrix effects are discussed at Volume I, Sections 1.2 and 3.2.2.3 of the Basewide PCB Confirmation Sampling Summary Report).

b. The issue has been discussed with Tetra Tech EM Inc.(TTEMI). Laboratory difficulties with matrix interference are relatively common and are considered and routinely evaluated by TTEMI during: (1) the selection of confirmation sampling locations (regarding SSPTS screening sample results); and (2) validation of the confirmation sampling data.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Manny Bernal (650) 244-3313 or Mr. Mike Bartunek (650) 244-3243.

Sincerely,

ROBERT PENDER

Senior Remedial Project Manager, Mare Island
By direction

Copy to:

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (Attn: Ms. Bonnie Arthur)
California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Attn: Mr. Michael Rochette)